

EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

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from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

It's the charge of the wild charge account

The lady whose problems with the computer in charge of charge accounts were discussed here some months ago is still facing difficulties.

You may remember how the computer for a large department store kept sending her bills for more than she owed. She kept telephoning and straightening it out with the credit department.

The computer kept on sending her wrong bills, even after she had a letter from the credit manager agreeing that she was right.

He apologized but he was unable to stop the mad computer. At latest report, the credit department had sent her a sharp note demanding what the credit manager had agreed she didn't owe.

THE CASE is now with the lady's lawyer. We shall see which is the greater power in this country—law or the computer.

And having learned over a long period of years to be cynical of anyone's chances for justice, I bet on the computer.

This lady is far from alone in her difficulties over a charge account.

Consumer's Union has recently started publishing letters it receives from unhappy consumers.

One unsatisfied customer reported that Montgomery Ward added \$32.84 to the customer's bill by mistake. Next month, after the customer protested, the bill had a \$32.84 credit.

This was adequate except for one nasty development.

Monky's charges you 1½ per cent.

MORE on page 8



KEY OFFICERS of the two unions which have merged into Paint Makers 1975 confer at a joint meeting of the two former locals' executive boards. Executive boards worked long hours to draft bylaws of Local 1975, which now has received its charter. Left to right are Local 1101 Business Representative Carl Jaramillo, Local 1071 President Kenneth E. Reeves, Local 1101 Recording Secretary Carl Lawler and Local 1071 Business Representative John R. Shoop. (Story page 5).

3-officer grip on Creque told

The trial of Oakland Federation of Teachers President David Creque got a picture of three officers firmly holding Creque by both arms and the necktie while he was purportedly striking a school security guard.

Creque's defense attorney, Stewart Weinberg, said he will present evidence that a fourth officer was beating Creque in the kidneys while the other three held him.

The three-man grip on Creque was admitted by the three officers under cross examination. They had been called as prosecution witnesses.

Creque and four black community leaders are on trial in Oakland municipal court on misdemeanor charges resulting from a stormy meeting of the Oakland board of education last May 20.

They were part of a crowd protesting the board's selection of Dr. James Mason as superintendent of schools. Audience members pointed out that the board had failed to consult labor or the community and had bypassed its own selection procedures. Mason later resigned without assuming the post.

The board hurriedly adjourned the May 20 meeting and a confrontation with guards and police resulted.

The defense was expected to take over this week after more than a score of prosecution witnesses had used more than four weeks to testify on the incident.

Creque and Director Percy MORE on page 8

Molders strike 34 foundries

Eleven hundred members of Molders & Allied Workers 164 struck 34 Bay Area foundries Monday, including 18 in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The California Metal Trades Association, representing employers, failed to come near union wage proposals, a spokesman said.

Another major issue was management insistence on cutting back overtime pay for the ninth and tenth hour in a day to time and one-half from the previous contract provision for double time, said George E. McIntyre, union business representative and secretary.

Besides the East Bay plants, struck Metal Trades Association foundries were in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties and part of Santa Clara County.

The old agreement expired March 1. It was extended for a week in an effort to find agreement.

But the parties still were substantially apart after final sessions with a federal mediator Saturday.

A total of 16 bargaining sessions were held before the strike. No further meetings were scheduled as the unionists walked out.

Meanwhile, Local 164 was negotiating for new agreements elsewhere in Northern California.

Talks cover some 300 members in the Stockton-Lodi area and smaller groups in San Jose and Fresno.



PAT FEMISTER became the first woman to hold top office in Oakland Typographical Union 36 when she was elected second vice president last week.

(Story page 8).

San Francisco city employees set to strike

The San Francisco board of supervisors raised the wage package a shade for some 14,000 city employees Monday but unions still were set to strike Thursday of this week.

The salary ordinance covers all employees but firemen, police and Municipal Railway platform men.

The board said it was an over 55 per cent, \$4,800,000 total annual raise.

Unions said it amounted to less than 1 per cent and under \$400,000, losing ground to rising living costs.

That came about, said Executive Secretary John E. Jeffery of San Francisco City & County Employees 400 because the board's Legislative & Personnel Committee had found ways to chop back the 5 per cent.

A major cutback results from denying many employees their regular step raises. Other benefits like ward duty premiums for nurses were also cut out by the committee.

Jeffery blamed Personnel Manager George Grubb for showing the committee how to cut back the package. Unions said Grubb should be fired.

The committee slashed the civil service commission's 7½ per cent, \$9,200,000 recommendation.

Union members, who won't get the raises until July 1, want 10 per cent.

The board added about \$900,000 to the committee's proposal. Of that \$352,000 corrected a mathematical mistake, \$369,000 went for nurses' night premiums and \$113,000 was to restore stationary engineers' raises to 10 to 17.5 per cent.

Stationary Engineers 39 said that if it determined the board had given it its proposals, it would withdraw strike sanction application. But Local 39 pledged scrupulously to respect other unions' picket lines.

A San Francisco Labor Council committee was to act on sanction Wednesday. Besides Locals 400 and 39, Building Maintenance Union 66A and Hospital Workers 250 asked sanction. The California Nurses Association said its members would strike.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Correspondents columns will be found on pages 4 and 5 of this edition of the Labor Journal. Unions will find notices of important meetings called by their officers on page 6.

The involved employees are the only ones whose salaries the board controls. Muni men, building trades workers, police and firemen are paid in accordance with other cities' rates and prevailing construction wages.

Salesmen strike Grand Chrysler agency in Oakland

Automobile Salesmen 1095 struck the Grand Chrysler-Plymouth agency in Oakland this week after management fired five salesmen and refused to recognize the union as representing employees.

Members of Automotive Machinists 1546, Auto, Marine & Specialty Painters 1176 and Teamster Automotive Employees 78 were respecting picket lines, Local 1095 Executive Secretary Vincent Fulco praised the three unions' solid cooperation.

The strike was called after Lodge 1546 Senior Business Representative Bud Williams, Business Representative Leslie K. Moore of Local 1176 and Fulco MORE on page 8

High Court bans GE 'Boulwarism'

General Electric has lost its long fight to overturn a National Labor Relations Board ruling that its "take it or leave it" approach to union bargaining in 1960 was an unfair labor practice.

The Supreme Court rejected without comment GE's appeal against the NLRB ruling in the 10-year-old case, thus upholding the NLRB action.

Rejection of the appeal came just after 150,000 GE workers had overturned a similar "final offer" tactic by GE in 1969 by forcing GE to make a much improved offer to end a 100-day strike.

In its appeal from the NLRB ruling, GE maintained that the law does not prohibit an employer "with a genuine desire to reach agreement" from "presenting an offer during the course of bargaining which includes everything he feels is warranted and right, holding back nothing intentionally for later trading."

GE's "Boulwarism" tactic had previously been judged an unfair labor practice by the U.S. Circuit Court in New York.

The NLRB found that in 1960 negotiations, GE ridiculed the International Union of Electrical Workers' proposals, deluged plants and communities with propaganda and "took a strike" to force its offer on the union.

The lower court judges held "that an employer may not so combine take-it-or-leave-it bargaining methods with a widely publicized stance of unbending firmness that he is... unable to alter a position once taken."

Their decision said GE had ignored the "legitimacy and relevance" of the union's position as bargaining agent. Management's "patriarchal position," it charged, didn't jibe with the legal requirement to discuss union proposals fully and fairly.

How to Buy

'Interest' isn't always 'interest'

By **SIDNEY MARGOLIUS**
Consumer Expert for
Labor Journal

A question that often troubles small taxpayers is the interest rate deduction you can take if you itemize deductions.

The law on this point has long been contradictory and controversial. The law says that interest is fully deductible if it is called "interest" and stated separately. But where interest is called a carrying or service charge, even though stated separately, then the deduction is limited to 6 per cent of the average monthly unpaid balances.

THUS, INTEREST you pay on mortgages and on cash loans is fully deductible without question. But, the law says, with some varying interpretations, that "carrying charges" on installment purchases are not interest.

A particular contradiction which I tried to get various IRS spokesmen to clear up, is what happens in the case of bank charge-accounts such as Master Charge or BankAmericard.

On a typical such plan, the bank charges you a "service charge" of 1½ per cent a month (18 per cent a year) on purchases of goods from participating stores. But on cash advances from the bank on the same credit card, the bank charges you what it calls "interest."

The "interest" on the cash advances is fully deductible. But the Washington office of IRS says the "service charge" on purchases made on the same card, is subject to the 6 per cent limit. But the IRS regional office in New York says the "service charge" imposed by the bank on

installment purchases also would be fully deductible.

U.S. Representative John C. Watts of Kentucky has introduced a bill to call all carrying or service charges "interest."

The bill was referred to the House Ways & Means Committee at this time. The committee apparently will need jogging. In these days of higher installment fees and widespread use of installment credit, this limitation is notably unfair. A businessman can deduct all the "interest" he pays on borrowings. But a consumer in many cases may not. Installment credit is, of course, merely a disguised loan.

Now that the Truth in Lending law requires installment plans to state the annual percentage rate, the case for considering all such fees as "interest" is even stronger. At least two court decisions also have said that "service charge" are interest.

Until Congress acts to redress this unfairness, you can beat it on your own. If you need credit, get a cash loan from a credit union or bank, even on the same credit card, and buy with the cash in hand. You'll save two ways. You'll pay a lower interest rate on a credit-union or bank loan than the 18 per cent on charge-account plans, and up to 22 per cent on installment contracts. And the "interest" unquestionably will be fully deductible.

A NEW WAY to get you to pay more interest to lenders is the tax loans now being offered by several bank-sponsored credit-card plans in a number of states.

Lenders have always offered tax loans, of course. What's new

is the subtle way these loans are being offered, and the higher interest rates charged for them.

The tax loans are being offered by such credit-card plans as Master Charge and BankAmericard. In promoting the use of charge accounts for paying taxes, the banks have sent their credit-card holders bank drafts made out to the Internal Revenue Service. The card-holder fills in the amount and sends the draft to the IRS.

Then when the bank pays the IRS, it charges the payment to the card holder and he pays the bank a true annual interest of 15 per cent a year. For this convenience, really an enticement to borrow, a taxpayer who has spent hours struggling to save perhaps \$25 on his taxes might find himself paying that much or more in interest for a tax loan.

If you ever did need money to pay taxes, you could borrow directly from your credit union at a true annual rate of 12 per cent or less, or even from a bank on a personal loan at 12-13 per cent.

You may not even have to do that. If, for a valid reason of hardship, you couldn't meet your tax liability you could ask your local Internal Revenue office for an extension.

You can get the necessary Form 1127 from your IRS office. If granted, you can get up to six months extension. The government will charge you interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. Both your return and the accompanying form would have to be filed on time (by April 15).

The banks are banking on the belief that people are afraid of the Internal Revenue Service and would rather owe a bank than the government, and that the bank draft or loan is easier to arrange.

IF YOUR CHILD has worked part time, make sure he files a return to get a tax refund. He must file in any case if he earned \$600 or more. But he won't owe any tax if he did not earn over \$900. He gets a \$600 exemption for himself plus the minimum standard deduction for individual of \$300.

Even though he claims himself as an exemption, you too, can claim him as long as he is under 19 or a full-time student if you do provide more than half his support.

On 1970 income (not 1969 income on which you are now filing), students and other part-time workers can have as much as \$1725 income without paying any tax.

Moreover, they no longer will have to go through the red tape of first having taxes withheld and then filing for a refund. Anyone expecting that his earnings will be under \$1725 this year can request that his employer not withhold taxes. He must certify that he expects no tax liability for this year and had none the year before.

(Copyright 1970)

Seniors add to health benefit

The National Council of Senior Citizens has added nursing home benefits of \$400 a month for up to six months to its Medicare supplementary insurance for council members. The additional benefit means no extra cost. The Senior Citizens insurance also provides additional hospital and doctor fee benefits to those provided in Medicare.

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What They Wore...by PHYLLIS JOYCE

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Getting Your Money's Worth

Evidence is mounting that the familiar soda bottle is a potential booby trap that can blind a victim but there is still room and time for more testimony, says the staff of Consumer Reports, the publication of Consumers Union.

The National Commission on Product Safety is preparing a report for submission to Congress this summer showing that soda bottles do explode, and do cause serious injuries.

THE TESTIMONY presented during hearings clearly showed the procedures a bottle maker or soda bottler undertakes to check his containers are purely a matter of choice—there are no regulatory standards.

A commission check of 2,582 insurance cases closed during a three-month period in 1969 revealed at least 27 instances of bottles that exploded.

Here are two examples of letters to Consumers Union:

"The bottles were stacked four six-packs in each wooden case, three cases high. As I reached over to pick up one six-pack from the top case, before I had touched it, one of the bottles exploded and a fragment of the

glass struck me in my left eye. . . . The doctors sent me to St. Bernard Hospital to have the eye removed . . ."

"I then walked to the check-out counter and placed these items in reach of the clerk. . . . The first bottle upon which she laid her hand struck another one. . . . I . . . was glancing down. . . . The one bottle completely shattered and a fragment struck me in the right eye. . . . The doctor's diagnosis was to have the eye removed. . . ."

Consumers Union believes that the Product Safety Commission should recommend prompt establishment of an agency to set standards for pop bottles and require among other things the immediate use of some existing safety testing equipment which some manufacturers ignore.

MARKET DISPLAY guidelines that would minimize the danger to shoppers are also called for by Consumers Union, which believes the bottles should be banned from eye-level shelves, or even placed behind a transparent shield.

If you've had a personal experience with an exploding soda bottle, set it forth as fully as possible in a letter to the National Commission on Product Safety, 1016 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, says Consumers Union.

Consumers Union recommends that you don't impose sudden temperature changes on bottled soda and, because heat increases internal pressure, keep soda bottles chilled rather than depend on ice cubes when you're ready to drink. Never shake a capped bottle and avoid striking the bottle—especially against another soda bottle.

Tires affect speed reading

If you've changed the size of your car's tires, your speedometer could be inaccurate, the Highway Patrol warned. An increase in tire circumference will result in a speedometer reading lower than actual speed, the patrol said. Motorists finding themselves continually moving faster than other vehicles should have their speedometers checked and adjusted if necessary, it advised.

Insurance chiefs hit policyholder aid bill

Leaders of the insurance industry are generating pressure against a bill in Congress to protect policyholders of companies which go broke, Utah Senator Frank Moss reported.

He said that they have appealed to insurance companies and company employees to oppose the measure. And he said heavy mail has been received against it.

The bill, by Moss and Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington, would set up a federal insurance guaranty corporation to protect policyholders in automobile, casualty and fire insurance companies from loss if the firms go bankrupt.

The proponents said the corporation would act as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation does in protecting depositors

when a bank goes under. The insurance agency would similarly protect policyholders against claims after a company went bankrupt.

Under the bill, the insurance guaranty corporation also would make regulations against unsafe insurance practices and to conduct examinations of firms.

A recent industry survey found that 135 property and casualty insurance companies failed in the past 12 years.

Industry opposition appears based on the federal control portion of the bill. States now set insurance rates and regulate insurance practices.

Insurance lobbyists have a lot to say at the state level, the bill's sponsors pointed out.

Painters join glass safety drive

The public should be protected by state standards on use of safety glass in homes and commercial and public buildings, the Painters and glass industry groups have declared.

The union has joined with three industry organizations in campaigning for firm state standards.

Union members, particularly glaziers, are concerned over unsafe glass sliding doors, entrance doors, glass panels and other glazing fixtures in new construction, Union President S. Frank Raftery said.

Industry groups with which

the union is cooperating in the safety campaign are the Flat Glass Marketing Association, the National Glass Marketing Association and Pittsburgh Plate Glass Industries, Inc.

Object of the campaign is a comprehensive bill to supplant the many state laws and local rules covering glass in construction.

Jobs in census

The Census Bureau has established no upper age limit for hiring 180,000 persons to help take the 1970 census, beginning April 1.

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The I-J gets a hometown nudge Teamster milk industry talks

The scab-run San Rafael Independent-Journal got a hometown nudge last week toward settling the more than two-month-old strike by union printers.

But the I-J indicated it wasn't having any.

After Typographical Union 21 and its attorney told the San Rafael city council that the union had offered to submit all issues to binding arbitration, the council unanimously voted to ask management and the union to negotiate or arbitrate the dispute.

Next day a negotiating session broke up when management principals failed to appear. The federal Conciliation Service had specifically asked management to attend, the union said.

Instead, Local 21 disclosed, a negotiator for the Western Newspaper Industrial Bureau showed up and admitted he had no authority to change management's 16-month-old demands. Manage-

ment had previously rejected arbitration.

There were these other developments:

1. Labor support was building for the striking printers. One development was authorization by Teamsters Joint Council 7 to its president, Joe Diviny, and vice president, Jack Goldberger, to establish a council committee to work for broad backing to the strike.

Labor Council and union representatives from Bay Area counties met Wednesday in San Francisco to plan integrated support for the strikers.

2. The I-J, turned down on much of its request for contempt rulings against six union representatives and four labor organizations, went back into court in a new action, seeking to find the same individuals and organizations in contempt of its earlier injunction limiting Local 21 pickets and banning violence.

3. Union pickets reported that

an I-J guard had peppered them with slingshot missiles from a building roof.

Named in the I-J's original contempt plea were Goldberger, Local 21 and its president, Leon Olson, Vice President John DeMartini and Representative Don Abrams of Local 21; Goldberger, Local 921 and its secretary-treasurer, Al Vergez, Typographical Union International Representative George Duncan, the Marin and San Francisco Labor Councils.

Marin County Superior Judge Thomas F. Keating dismissed the case against all four organizations. He noted that the I-J's declaration did not show that individuals named were acting in the scope of their duties as officers of the organizations.

Goldberger and Duncan were not served, so were not parties to the action.

Last week the I-J made a new declaration, meeting the judge's objections and sought an order to show cause why the individuals and organizations should not be held in contempt. A hearing was set March 30.

Six unions of Teamsters Joint Council 7, including Milk Drivers 302, are in four sets of negotiations covering 3,000 workers in milk processing, distribution and delivery in Northern California.

The unions are asking a \$1 an hour increase in wages and improvement in all fringes in a new one-year agreement. Old contracts expire April 1.

Negotiations were underway with the Milk Dealers Association, representing seven major

companies; Safeway, Lucky Stores and 10 independent milk producers.

Local unions involved, in addition to 302, are 226 in San Francisco; 296, San Jose; 624, Marin; 890, Salinas, and 912, Watsonville.

Los Angeles based Knudsen Corporation, which purchased Borden dairy operations in California, has not yet become involved in the negotiations. Knudsen is continuing union recognition for all employees, including about 400 in the Bay Area.

Leather Workers strike, gain pact

A five-day strike brought a first contract between Ivan's House of Leather in Berkeley and Leather, Plastic & Novelty Workers 31.

The company's 12 employees chose the union in a representation election January 27. But it took a strike to get a contract.

The agreement brought a substantial wage increase and, for the first time, a health and welfare plan, vacations, sick leave and holidays, the union said.

IAM ups strike support

Members of the International Association of Machinists have voted 69,246 to 24,790 to double their monthly strike assessment to \$1 a month.

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Nixon halts rail strike

President Nixon, who wants compulsory arbitration in five transportation industries, asked Congress last week to order railroad unionists to accept a settlement.

Instead, he got special Congressional legislation forbidding a strike until April 11.

The AFLCIO strongly opposed the Nixon pitch for a compulsory settlement. President George Meany sent wires to Chairman Harley Staggers of the House Interstate Commerce Commission and Chairman Ralph Yarborough of the Senate Labor Committee, declaring:

"This is an anti-democratic proposal which no amount of rationalization can disguise . . . The government must not ever be permitted to set the terms of collective bargaining agreements in private industry. To do so would be to deny workers their fundamental rights as free men."

Four AFLCIO shopcraft unions

Leroy Woods seeks Council re-election in San Leandro

Leroy V. Woods, who was secretary-treasurer of Culinary Workers & Bartenders 823 for 20 years, is seeking reelection as San Leandro city councilman at the April 14 city election.

Woods was appointed councilman from District 5 last March to fill the unexpired term created by the death of William Swift. He retired from his Local 823 post last November.

Public posts Woods has held include three years on the San Leandro Planning Commission where he never missed a meeting except for excused out of town absences, member of the Alameda County Grand Jury, five years on the Eden Hospital Advisory Committee, and on the administration of the Civil Defense program in San Leandro in World War II.

Teachers oppose CTA tax measure

A tax initiative, which the California Teachers Association claimed it had qualified for the June 2 primary ballot as Proposition 8, was opposed by the Oakland Federation of Teachers as a "short sighted" and "cynical grab for money."

The OFT said the initiative did not provide for progressive tax reform, did not guarantee relief to property taxpayers, did not establish controls over how the money is to be spent or specify where it would come from.

had been ready to walk out against the nation's railroads at midnight, March 5. They had been negotiating for 15 months, seeking settlement on wages and work rules.

The unions are the Machinists, Boilermakers, Sheet Metal Workers and Electrical Workers.

They had announced plans to strike 128 major railroads after a federal judge ruled that they could not strike individual lines. A selective strike against Union Pacific in January was halted by earlier court action against the strike and the railroads' plan to retaliate by a nationwide lockout.

Some 1,500 shopcraft employees in the Sacramento and Los Angeles areas were reported to have rebelled against the Congressional action and picketed at Southern Pacific and Western Pacific facilities.

A federal judge in Sacramento held a special Sunday session to order Sacramento and Roseville workers to report to their SP jobs.

Nixon based his call for an imposed settlement on tentative acceptance by three unions of an agreement containing a controversial work rule. He wanted Congress to order it in effect.

The three—Boilermakers, Machinists and Electrical Workers—had offered to sign but the railroads rejected the offer. Sheet Metal Workers rejected the rule, which would have allowed crossing of craft lines.

Congress' action was its third intervention in a railroad management-labor dispute in seven years. It was hoping for a voluntary solution of what will then be a 16-month-old dispute by April 11.

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Chips and Chatter

BY GUNNAR (BENNY) BENONYS

For some time, I have been sorely concerned about the Nixon administration's apparent aims. The Housing and Urban Act of 1968 set goals of 2,600,000 housing units per year. With subsequent raises in the prime rates of money by the Federal Reserve Board, which controls all of our commercial money, the potential good of housing construction has been effectively destroyed for a long time to come.

Construction of one home involves over 5,000 component parts and involves many, many persons. Just stop to think, from the miners who dig the lead, steel, stones, gravel, sand, etc., the lumber workers in the forests, the metal processing plants and mills; tube and pipe makers; metal fabricators of all kinds; paint makers; hardware manufacturers.

How many more construction allied trades and suppliers can you think of that in some big or little way are dependent on construction of homes and commercial buildings? Then picture if you will, all the thousands of people who earn a living, directly or indirectly because of construction, (besides the actual construction craftsmen). These thousands of people as well as the craftsmen, are slowly going into other fields of work, if they can find a job.

The unprecedented highest money rates have resulted in a "credit crunch" that is rapidly destroying industry itself. When millions become unemployed, they naturally can't buy goods. When sales drop, employees are laid off. Then what happens to manufacturers of hard and soft goods? The same thing, no sales, no employees!

With construction, in my opinion the country's largest single industry going down the drain, many other industries that provide good jobs are severely hit. Who is going to buy a new car at the tremendous rates of interest? Who is going to be able to "qualify" for a house loan at usurious rates (a \$30,000 home at present rates means nearly \$60,000 will have been paid over a 30 year loan).

Even industry is feeling the pangs of a recession (a depression if you are out of work). The Ford Motor Co. plant in Dallas, Texas, in operation for 45 years, producing over 3,300,000 cars and trucks in that time, has closed, leaving 1,900 workers unemployed. Reason given, "Unfavorable economic factors."

Even commercial construction, usually the last to feel the pinch of "high cost money" is in a quandary. Can you imagine the 8 to 12 per cent interest costs, plus finders' fees, architectural fees of 10 or 12 per cent, the high cost of land, on a \$60,000,000 skyscraper? Especially when the corporation building the building must make sufficient sales of its products, cars, gas and oil products, refrigerators, stoves, television sets, etc., in order to pay for it.

No wonder some of the largest companies and corporations are feeling the very pinch of high money as well as the lowest paid worker.

If the construction industry is in this rapidly deteriorating condition, what's going on in the other prime industries of the nation?

Some of the foremost economists can't agree on the future. "A gradual stabilizing of economy," "a more cautious approach to prevent inflation," "an acceptance of an unemployment of 4.5 to defeat inflation."

Horsefeathers, I'm no economist, but it's beginning to look like we are on the threshold of a major depression. What do you think about it?

Heard from Brother William

Wheeler who for many years has dedicated his skills and heartfelt efforts in service to his Mormon church. Thanks for your call, Brother Bill. If we had more like you, our world would greatly improve.

Stewards meeting will be held Thursday night, 7:30 p.m., March 26, 1970. Hope to see you all at the regular union meeting, Thursday night, March 19, 1970. How long has it been since we've seen YOU at YOUR own UNION meeting? See you then, Brother.

Sheet Metal Workers 216

BY ROBERT M. COOPER

A few of our "old-timers" have applied for their pension, so will be leading the "Life of Riley" from now on. Among the new retirees are Dale Maggert, John Aston and William "Red" McFarland.

We have had 10 per cent of the membership on the out-of-work list for quite some time and the future is questionable. The fault lies with the first of the year inventory tax.

Do you remember Tricky Dick saying he had a secret plan to end the war? Somebody said he should have written it down as he seems to have forgotten it. Methinks he was lying.

Willie Robinson is back to work at Todd's after a serious auto accident.

Just received word there are 24 \$500 scholarship awards available for California High School seniors. These are sponsored by the California Federation of Labor or an affiliate.

Deadline for application is March 13, with a transcript of the student's high school record. Students applying will compete in a two-hour competitive examination Friday, April 10, in the high school where he filed.

Further information may be obtained by writing to Education Committee, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, Thomas Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer, 995 Market Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, California 94103, Attention: Albin J. Gruhn, President.

Tricky Dick has demanded that federal employees wait six months for their promised raise and therefore is able to claim a thin surplus budget-wise for the coming fiscal year.

The "savings" accounted for \$1,300,000,000 of the estimated \$1,400,000,000 surplus. It is hard to believe that government would buy a budget surplus at the workers' expense. Guess Dick needs another summer White House.

Regular union meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m., in the Labor Temple, Oakland.

Members of the Tri-State Council death benefit plan please note that death assessment No. 670 is now due and payable.

AFSCME 371 'Info'

BY NAT DICKERSON

Where a few years back there was just a limited number of Negro custodians at the University of California, Berkeley, an enormous breakthrough has recently occurred in the promotion of James M. Scott, Sr. to the position of Supervisor.

Segments of the Administration to be commended, among others, are the Physical Plant (G & B) Services, and the Personnel Office.

In choosing "Jim" Scott, as he is affectionately known by most custodians, the Administration could not possibly have made a mistake for he already possessed many illustrious qualifications before coming to work at the University.

Before coming to the University, where he was first a window washer, he had had 18 years of

experience in all phases of building maintenance as janitor, building washing, window cleaning, general foreman, purchaser, manager of a small business and other administrative functions.

Jim was hired by the University on February 19, 1962 and, due to the extensiveness of his past experience, advanced very rapidly.

Having served in the U.S. Army during World War II, in the Pacific, he is a member of the VFW, the father of three young adult children, all of whom seem to reflect scholastically what they have inherited from their parentage, both mother and father.

We, the officers and members of UC Employees Local 371, join with others of the University community in complimenting Jim, for what we believe to be a well-deserved advancement.

The writer has been informed by President Murphy of the importance of a creditably large attendance to our next meeting due to AFSCME International's wish to increase our per capita tax.

We'll see you there.

Steamfitters 342

BY JIM MARTIN

Well, the way our Union's new President, Ernie Boyer, has conducted our Union's first two meetings, it looks like we have got off to a real good start. Ernie has had a good agenda, expediting the meeting and conducting fair and orderly meetings. So, let's make the first Thursday of each month Union meeting night in your family and be in attendance, thereby obtaining first hand information on what is going on. Based on good order at the meetings, you can still be home before 11 o'clock.

At the March 5 membership meeting, this writer submitted a condensed report covering Business Representatives Doyle Williams and Bobby Beeson and my attendance at the United Association's Regional Meetings held in the City of Portland, Oregon, on March 2 and 3, 1970.

Approximately 100 United Association Business Managers and Business Representatives, representing Local Unions in the States of California, Oregon and Washington, were in attendance. Assistant General President Marty Ward chaired this two-day meeting, assisted by most of our National Staff Officers.

Reports of our General Officers, covering legislation, National agreements, jurisdictional problems and procedures to follow, Pension Plans and many other items, all beneficial to us, in carrying out our duties as Union Officials.

Also, on the agenda, there was a question and answer period, at which we received valuable information.

One subject most stressed upon was the work stoppages, lack of productivity, picket lines by Building Trades mechanics, as compared to the non-union worker. From all indications, the American Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, General Executive Board will be coming up with some kind of policy and mandates to resolve the very bad situation in the Gulf States. We know our members give the Boss a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

Our work situation continues to be bright and it will not be long before we will have all our members working—then we will turn to our sister local Unions for help.

Bill Phillips wishes to remind the Golf Club Players that the Bethel Island Tournament, which was rained out February 28, will be held on March 14, this coming Saturday—fees \$6. See you at our April 2 membership meeting.

Student workers get a contract

Student workers at San Francisco State College have gained an agreement granting union recognition, grievance procedure, the union shop and other protections in student food service.

The agreement between American Federation of Teachers 1928 and the college's S.F. State College Foundation runs for two years, with wage negotiations deferred for one year.

The agreement requires arbitration as the final grievance

step, prohibits supervisors from working at food service tasks, assuring hiring of adequate student staff; requires students and supervisors to agree to shift changes and contains general provisions on seniority, leaves of absence.

The contract gives student workers special consideration when they are studying for examinations.

Paint Makers get charter

The new five-county Paint Makers 1975 has received its charter from the Painters & Allied Trades after international approval of the merged union's bylaws.

International Representative Peter J. Ceremello presented the charter at a joint meeting of executive boards of former Locals 1071 and 1101, which combined to form the new union.

Local 1975 covers more than 800 union members in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin and Solano Counties.

The two executive boards will continue to meet jointly until Local 1975's election June 16, to provide a smooth transition from two unions to one.

Board members are:

Local 1071—President Kenneth E. Reeves, Vice President Clarence Lyons, Recording Secretary Dean Dillsaver, Treasurer Frank Moreno, Financial Secretary & Business Representative John R. Shoop, Warden Jack Waheed, Conductor Nick Telemchuk and Trustees Russell Meyer, Robert Hodges and Daniel Stamm.

Watchmakers 101

BY GEORGE F. ALLEN

Albin Peterson, watchmaker employed by Wolffs Jewelers in Martinez, has been on the sick list and hospitalized at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek. We sincerely hope that by the time this column reaches you, Brother Peterson, you will have completely recovered and be back on the job.

Brother Paul Contreras, watchmaker employed by Steiners Jewelers in San Mateo, is returning to the hospital. He will be at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco and it is our sincere wish that Brother Contreras will soon be out of the hospital as he has had more than his share of sickness and hospitalization.

Brother Chet Watson, who was the watchmaker for many years at Hudson Jewelers in San Jose, has applied for his pension. Brother Watson is the third member to apply for the I.J.W.U. pension. First Brother Bill Johnson and then Brother Homer Dickens, and now Brother Watson. All of them are grateful that our local participated in the pension program set up by our International Union.

SAN FRANCISCO MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next membership meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 1970, at 7:30 p.m.—Union Office, 693 Mission Street, Suite 707, San Francisco.

Typographical Auxiliary

BY ELIZABETH FEE

Members of the Women's Auxiliary No. 26 and their husbands are invited to a luncheon and bingo party at 1 p.m. on March 15 at the home of Betty Bowditch, 1821 Ninth Street, Alameda, to celebrate the 60th Charter Day anniversary.

For reservations please phone 845-1680 by March 12.

OFT cites law in asking for talks with school board

The Oakland Federation of Teachers, which got no answer from the board of education on its 1969 collective bargaining proposals, has cited state law in asking for discussions this year.

As OFT prepared its 1970 collective bargaining program, President David Creque wrote Board President Ann Corneille requesting a public meeting with the board "to discuss the various proposals presented to the board during the past year."

He told the board that OFT would be making a comprehensive new proposal on pay, hours and conditions soon and hopes for a written agreement.

Creque noted that the State Education Code requires:

"A public school employer or governing board thereof... shall meet and confer with representatives of employee organizations representing certificated employees upon request..."

He also asked a written answer to a series of questions bearing on the board's willingness to meet OFT on its bargaining proposals. Prior to this week's board meeting it said it had not gotten the answer.

Public Employees tell Oakland terms

United Public Employees 390 gave its contract proposals to Oakland last week and told the city that unless a contract is reached by June 1 the 600 field personnel in parks and public works would take other action.

A similar position was taken with proposals for 150 employees of the Port of Oakland.

Local 390, Fire Fighters 1227 and Electrical Workers 1245 met with Berkeley City Manager William Hanley this week on fringe benefits and general improvements.

At the county level after two months of futile negotiations, 50 appraisers represented by Local 390 notified Alameda County they would stop using their own cars and rely on the county to supply cars after March 16 if the county did not provide sufficient car allowance.

UFWOC sues growers

The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee has sued major California table grape growers for \$112,500,000 in a federal court action in Fresno charging illegal conspiracy to eliminate competition, maintain high prices and prevent negotiations with the union.



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, at left, retired president of the Sleeping Car Porters and crusader for equality, was honored by friends and fellow residents of Mutual Redevelopment

Houses, for his "personal contribution to the wellbeing of the people of America. New York school children read parts of his life story over the radio during the salute.

AFLCIO blasts Nixon compulsory arbitration

President Nixon's compulsory arbitration legislation for five transportation industries drew the AFLCIO's fire last week as a plan to have government set the terms for labor-management settlements.

And, as AFLCIO President George Meany blasted the plan, additional details of the President's blueprint indicated possible spread of the compulsion to other industries.

Nixon also proposed a National Special Industries Commission. His commission would look into other industries with the view toward determining if new legislation outside of transportation should be enacted.

Key to the Nixon proposal is "a novel form of compulsory arbitration" which conflicts with democratic principles, Meany said in a letter to Congress.

Nixon's special treatment will affect the trucking, shipping, waterfront, airline and railroad industries.

He would virtually repeal the Railway Labor Act which he called a "failure." The only function left under the act would be representational elections and determining bargaining units.

Meany took direct issue with

Nixon's claim that the economy is "highly vulnerable" to transportation stoppages. And he hit hard at the President's special approach, singling out the five industries.

Meany recalled that Nixon's own Labor Department had found only "minimal" effects on the economy in three waterfront strikes in which the Taft-Hartley Act's "emergency" 80-day strike-stopping provisions had been invoked.

"As respects trucking," Meany said, "no administration has ever found it necessary even to seek an 80-day Taft-Hartley injunction."

Nixon would remove airline and railroad disputes from under the Railway Labor Act, lump them with the other three industries and give all five special treatment.

Final step in the Nixon program, if disputes are still unsettled, would be to require management and labor to submit one or two "final offers" to a government board. The board then will select a management or labor final offer and impose it on the workers as a contract settlement.

Unlike traditional arbitration,

the board may be selected by the President if the parties don't agree on its makeup.

"The AFLCIO does not believe nor has it ever believed that the government should be permitted to set the terms of collective bargaining agreements in private industry," Meany told Congress.

"We do not think that it is compatible with the principles of democracy to compel employees to work on terms which are imposed on them by the government."

"We have, accordingly, always opposed and will continue to oppose any scheme of compulsory arbitration, no matter what administration proposes it and regardless of whether it is openly labelled as compulsory arbitration or is given a more euphemistic label such as 'Mediation to Finality' or 'Final Offer Selection.'"

Nixon said the Taft-Hartley Act, "which I helped write in 1947," had failed to prevent recurrence of strikes after the 80-day "cooling off" in eight transportation disputes among the 29 cases in which Taft-Hartley has been invoked.

So he proposed that in the five industries he could impose as much as 30 days more "cooling off." And he recommended that a government board be allowed to order partial operation of a struck or locked out industry. Partial operation could be ordered for as long as six months.

A strike-stopping provision of the partial operation plan was that it first must be studied for 30 days in which there could be no strike or lockout.

37,535 California workers shortchanged \$6 million in pay

California employers were caught last year shortchanging 37,535 employees of \$6,324,387 in wages. The victims included 1,140 workers in Alameda County who received \$229,929 less than they earned.

The figures were reported by the U.S. Labor Department on investigations of compliance with federal wage-hour regulations.

Labor has repeatedly pointed out that these investigations do not catch all the shortchanging and no one knows just how much workers lose each year to careless or chiseling employers.

Alameda County was the fifth worst in the state. As in the rest of the state, the major offense here was failure to pay time and a half for overtime worked beyond 40 hours.

This accounted for \$186,076 of the shortchanging in the county, with \$20,306 coming from failure to pay the minimum wage and \$12,880 for failure to pay the same wage for equal work regardless of sex.

In the state as a whole workers were shortchanged \$4,915,918 in overtime, \$495,408 in minimum

wages and \$674,461 for failure to pay the same rate regardless of sex.

Counties with worse records than Alameda were: Los Angeles, \$2,803,093; San Diego, \$514,663; Orange, \$343,907 and Fresno, \$267,907.

Oakland area wage-hour director Earl Henderson said only six minors were found illegally employed in Alameda County under child labor provisions of the federal wage-hour law.

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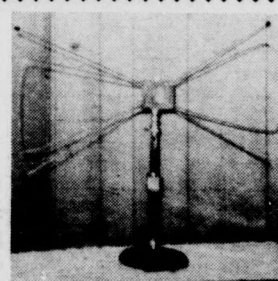
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OFFICIAL UNION NOTICES

AUTOMOTIVE MACHINISTS 1546 CARPET & LINOLEUM 1290

SPECIAL NOTICE

There will be a special order of business at the regular meeting of April 7, 1970 to consider the question of contributing 30 cents per member to the Educational Fund.

There will be a special order of business called at the second regular meeting of the month, March 17, 1970 to consider the question of withdrawing from the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

There will be a special order of business at the regular meeting of March 17, 1970 for the purpose of acting on setting aside \$3,500 for our Union Picnic.

Regular meetings of Lodge 1546 are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the hour of 8 p.m. in our building at 10260 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Fraternally,
LEVIN CHARLES,
Rep. Sec.

S.F.-OAKLAND MAILERS 18

MEETING NOTICE

The regular meeting of the San Francisco-Oakland Mailers' Union, No. 18, will be held at the Monadnock Building, 681 Market St., San Francisco, on Sunday afternoon, March 15, 1970 at one o'clock.

Fraternally,
EARL D. WHISEHUNT,
Secretary

AUTO & SHIP PAINTERS 1176

Auto, Marine & Specialty Painters 1176 meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in Room H, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, at 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
LESLIE K. MOORE,
Bus. Rep.

Look for the union shop card, ask for a union clerk to serve you, and demand the union label!

The next regular meeting of Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Workers Local 1290 will be held on Thursday, March 26, 1970 at 8:00 p.m., Hall "C", 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland. Please attend.

National Conference Death Assessments are due and payable through NC 352.

There is 24-hour telephone service on the weekends. The number is 444-3184.

Fraternally,
ROBERT SEIDEL,
Rec. Sec.

PLUMBERS & GAS FITTERS 444

MEETING NOTICE

The next regular meeting of the Plumbers & Gas Fitters Local Union No. 444 will be held Wednesday, the 25th of March, 1970, at 8:00 p.m. in Hall "A", first floor, of the Labor Temple Building.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Regular order of business. Please be sure to attend this meeting, since union meetings are an important part of union membership.

Fraternally yours,
GEORGE A. HESS,
Bus. Mgr. & Fin. Sec.

BARBERS 134

The regular March meeting will be held on Thursday night, March 26, 1970 in Room H of the Labor Temple, 23rd and Valdez Streets, Oakland.

Dues and assessments are due on or before the first day of the month for which they are due. A \$1 assessment is levied on the second billing.

Executive Committee and membership voted NOT TO SIGN PETITION being circulated by "scab" barbers. Please take note.

Fraternally,
JACK M. REED,
Sec.-Treas.

PRINTING SPECIALTIES 382

Meeting second Friday of the month at 8 p.m. in Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Fraternally,
TED E. AHL,
Sec.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES 3

General membership meeting Hall C, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez St., Oakland, the fourth Friday of the month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
WRAY JACOBS,
Rec. Sec.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 216

The regular meetings are every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple.

Fraternally,
ROBERT M. COOPER,
Bus. Rep.

U.C. EMPLOYEES 371

Our next regular meeting will be held on March 14th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 155, Kroeber Hall. The Executive Board will meet at 1:00 p.m. The Shop Stewards will also meet at 1:00 p.m.

Fraternally,
J. J. SANTORO,
Sec.-Treas.

PRINTING SPECIALTIES 678

Meeting second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in Cannery Workers Hall, 492 C Street, Hayward, California.

Fraternally,
JOSEPH CABRAL,
Sec.

ALAMEDA CARPENTERS 194

Carpenters Local 194 meets the first and third Monday evenings of the month at 8 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 2201 Central Avenue, Alameda.

Refreshments are served following the first meeting of the month in the Canteen for all present. You are urged to attend your Local's meetings.

Fraternally,
WM. "BILL" LEWIS,
Rec. Sec.

HAYWARD CARPENTERS 1622

Regular meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m. with a social following the meeting on the fourth Thursday.

The office of the financial secretary is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays, and 7:30 a.m. to noon Fridays.

Stewards meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. A stewards training program is held in conjunction with the stewards meeting.

The 1969 Claim for Refund forms can be picked up at the Financial Secretary's office.

Final filing date is June 30, 1970.

Fraternally,
KYLE W. MOON,
Rec. Sec.

AFSCME-EBMUD 444

The next executive board meeting of EBMUD Employees Local 444 will be held March 5, 1970, 7:30 p.m. All stewards and interested members are urged to attend.

The membership meeting will be on March 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Labor Temple Hall B.

Fraternally,
FLOYD E. PARTEN,
Sec.-Treas.

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MILLMEN'S UNION 550

TO: All members working under the terms of the Planing Mill and Cabinetwork Agreement.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

There will be a Special Called Meeting on Monday, March 16, 1970, at 8 p.m. in Hall "M" Third Floor, of the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, California, for the purpose of formulating demands for the new agreement.

The next Regular Meeting of Millmen's Union 550 will be held on Friday, March 20, 1970, in Room 228-229 of the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, California at 8 p.m.

To Fence Worker Members:

The monthly dues to this Union will be increased by 50 cents per month, effective March 1, 1970, making a total payment of \$12.50 per month for all members of this Union working under the Master Fence Agreement. You are reminded that effective March 1, 1970, you should receive a wage increase of 25 cents per hour. If your Employer does not pay this increase, please give your Business Agent at call—Phone 893-7742.

Fraternally,
GEO. H. JOHNSON,
Fin. Sec.

IRON WORKERS 378

Our Regular Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 8 p.m.

Stewards meetings also are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 8 p.m.

Our regular membership meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,
BOB McDONALD,
Bus. Agt.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES 18

All future membership meetings of Service Employees' Local 18 will be held at the following time and place:

TIME: 3:00 p.m., the fourth Friday of each month.

PLACE: Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, Calif.

This is in accordance with action taken at the general membership meeting of June 27, 1969.

Fraternally,
VICTOR C. BRANDT,
Sec.-Bus. Rep.

CARPENTERS 36

The regular meetings for Carpenters Local Union 36 are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8460 Enterprise Way, Oakland, California 94621, at 8 p.m. Phone 569-3465.

The hours of the Financial Secretary's office are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday the office closes at 1 p.m.

Stewards meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month, at the hall.

Support yourself, attend your union meetings!

Fraternally,
ALLEN L. LINDER,
Rec. Sec.

BERKELEY CARPENTERS 1158

Regular meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut St., Berkeley.

Be a good member. Attend union meetings. You may win a door prize.

Fraternally,
NICK J. AFDAMO,
Rec. Sec.

PAINT MAKERS 1975

The next regular meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m., March 17 in the Serbian Hall, 225 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Calif.

Fraternally,
CARL LAWLER,
Rec. Sec.

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES 257

The next regular meeting of the Oakland, California Unified School Employees Union, Local 257 will be Saturday, March 14, 1970 in the Auditorium at Castlemont High School, 8601 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, California at 10:30 a.m.

Executive Board will meet in the Community Room at 8 a.m. Members of Board Please Note.

Fraternally,
HAROLD BENNER,
Exec. Sec.

Cohelan smokes out suppressed education report

A report on education conflicting to Nixon administration policies has been smoked out after the Department of Health, Education & Welfare put it under wraps.

The report, urging greater emphasis on education, rather than welfare, as a solution to slum and ghetto problems was placed in the Congressional Record by Alameda County Democratic Congressman Jeffery Cohelan.

It had been withheld from publication by HEW, although the agency had commissioned its preparation. It was completed in January.

Contrary to Nixon's policy of restudying federal aid to education programs, the report recommends the federal government put \$470,000,000 into urban school education next year increasing the outlay to \$7,000,000,000 to \$14,000,000,000 by 1974.

Adequate funding is absolutely essential for effective education in the inner cities. This includes financing for smaller classes, remedial educational programs, aid for educationally deprived children. The report also stresses racial and ethnic integration as vital to improved urban education.

The report was compiled by an Urban Education Task Force of which Wilson Riles, deputy superintendent of public instruction for California, was chairman. Riles had urged it be made public. The committee was created by HEW Secretary Robert Finch.

Nixon policies slow membership gain by Cal. unions

Union membership in California rose to a new high of 2,085,700 in 1969.

The state Department of Industrial Relations reported union members increased by 47,900 by mid-1969 over the preceding year, but grew little more than half as fast as the work force. Nonfarm employment rose 4.1 per cent and union membership 2.4 per cent.

There was a loss of 300 members in the construction industry, hardest hit by the Nixon anti-inflation policies. Building trades locals made moderate gains in the Bay Area and San Diego. They lost members in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Manufacturing, also feeling the pinch of Nixon's slowdown, gained only two-tenths of one per cent to 627,000.

Largest gain was an 11,200 increase of unionized public employees. Retail and wholesale trades added 10,400.

The five-county Bay Area had 516,100 union members, a gain of 8,800, or 1.7 per cent in a year. The figure was dragged down by a 1.3 per cent decline in manufacturing.

Web Pressmen pick 3 new officers

Web Pressmen 4 have elected three new top officers and returned two incumbents to office.

New officers are President Leslie Casassa, Vice President William Horton and Financial and Corresponding Secretary Paul C. Trimble.

Re-elected unopposed were Treasurer Austin T. Jowett and Recording Secretary William E. Larkins.

David Reynolds and William E. Forman Jr. were advanced respectively to scale committee and apprentice committee chairman.

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County AFLCIO.

43rd Year, Number 52

March 13, 1970

JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, Editor

LEONARD MILLIMAN, Assistant to the Editor

1622 East 12th Street, Oakland, Calif. 94606

Phone 261-3981

It will take politics to keep 'Boulwarism' dead

Working people, who need major pay increases this year just to keep up with unending inflation, may take heart from the United States Supreme Court's decision that General Electric may not set itself up as the judge of what is right for its workers.

The court refused to review the National Labor Relations Board's ruling, previously upheld in a lower federal court, that GE's "one offer" non-bargaining technique 10 years ago was an unfair labor practice.

When the recent crucial GE strike was underway, business spokesmen openly noted that the final outcome would decide how all industry fared against union proposals. Were the results of the strike to have been a GE victory, then other industries would have followed GE's "take it or leave it" example.

GE's tactic, known as "Boulwarism" after its originator, former GE Vice President Lemuel Boulware, now is officially dead. It was knocked on the head by the success of the 1969-70 nationwide GE strike and then laid to rest by the Supreme Court.

This means that, for the present, there will be genuine collective bargaining where there would have been widespread management refusal to budge from a unilaterally determined position. Where there is genuine collective bargaining, working people win.

Now for the next stage—politics.

The President of the United States wants compulsory arbitration in five selected transportation industries. His "Final Offer Selection" by a board which could be appointed by the President means that working people would be forced to accept settlements dictated by government. This would kill collective bargaining as surely as successful "take it or leave it" non-bargaining.

This proposal would be extended to other industries if Congress accepted it.

Prevention of that threat depends this year on election of Congressmen and Senators who will reject the President's proposal and all other schemes to hobble labor. It depends ultimately on election of a President and Congress fair to working people.

Which means—give money and effort to COPE.

Membership total tells a story

The state's tabulation of union membership in California shows an increase to record numbers but we think its most significant disclosure is that in certain areas of the economy there was practically no change.

Union membership in manufacturing and construction remained about the same in July, 1969 as it had been a year earlier, the state reported. This looks like a side effect of the then six-months old economic slowdown on which the national administration pinned its hope of stopping inflation.

If the economy slows down, there are no new jobs for the new workers who continually swell the labor force.

If there are no new jobs, union membership will not expand. Manufacturing and construction are two basic enterprises which are major slowdown victims. Construction additionally took a direct hit from the government's big cutback in federal building programs.

The administration still maintains that it is seeking to enlarge minority employment opportunities in construction through its "Philadelphia Plan." This is a cynical proposal to make labor the whipping boy for minority job problems. It will not equip minorities with the skills necessary to be fulltime all around journeymen.

But it now becomes an even more hypocritical gesture. Opportunities for employment are more and more restricted for all workers—black and white—by the administration's own policies. We conclude that the administration is no more a friend of black people than it is of labor.

There's less than a month to register

In less than a month you can forget all about voting in the primary election this year unless you're registered.

Voting registration closes April 9 for the primary in which working people have a chance to choose their friends to contest their enemies for major state and congressional offices.

The California Labor Council on Political Education warns that fewer than half of the state's union members are registered.

The time you take to register at any city hall, county building or firehouse can be the most profitable time you ever spent.



Vallejo loses a paper

When newspapers merge and cut back publication, they usually blame it on higher costs—with an emphasis on wages—but over in Vallejo one consideration seems to be more free time for "little merchants."

When the afternoon News-Chronicle was consolidated with the morning Times Herald, management did of course refer to union pay and conditions in announcing subscribers would get one paper, plus a one-day edition at the former price of two papers.

But ex-State Senator Luther E. Gibson, the publisher, also printed a letter to his carriers' parents, recalling that as a lad he had carried three newspaper routes a day.

The carriers, delivering both of his papers, "have done a fine job," he wrote. Then he added:

"A new era in the lives of our youth is very much in evidence, which requires a greater opportunity for boys to participate in more athletics and recreation while getting an education. I saw it coming and I felt our carrier boys should not miss out on opportunities to participate in outside school activities."

"It could only be solved through a change in our publication policies. This we are doing by consolidating the Morning Times-Herald and Evening News-Chronicle, issued seven days per week, and publishing a special mid-week newspaper, the News-Chronicle, to be delivered to Morning Times-Herald subscribers at the one price."

"This means there will be no reduction in the subscription price for the Morning Times-Herald and the Special Wednesday News-Chronicle. No change will be made in the cost of newspapers to the carrier; therefore, he will continue to receive the same earnings per subscriber and deliver one News-Chronicle per week instead of the five issues he has been delivering. I believe the little merchant should appreciate he will continue to receive the same money per subscriber."

Then he added this admonition:

"There is one obligation and it

is a must—The Morning Times-Herald must be delivered to the homes not later than 6:30 every morning and prompt delivery after school of the Wednesday News-Chronicle."

"Mr. and Mrs. Parent, I ask you to please explain to your boy the content of this letter and his obligation as a Times Herald-News Chronicle carrier."

The consolidation ended 40 years of subscription packages of both papers. From a one-ownership two-newspaper town, it switched Vallejo to what amounts to a one-newspaper town.

No fulltime editorial jobs had been lost as of last week but one advertising employee was laid off as were two part time workers.

In the back shop, it was a different matter. With elimination of the afternoon paper, 13 printers and two stereotypers were laid off.

Management then discovered that discontinuance of the slim News-Chronicle didn't cut the work that much.

Seven printers were rehired, one stereotyper was put back on the job and the second was put to work part time.

Three pressmen were laid off and none was rehired, however. Wages, of course, were part of the company's explanation.

Guild fights demand for notes

American Newspaper Guild President Charles A. Perlik Jr., called on President Nixon to publicly repudiate demands of the Justice Department that reporters disclose their raw notes from confidential information sources.

Perlik said the Guild would also fight any effort by employers to discipline newsmen who refuse to violate confidences.

A similar stand was taken by the Representative Assembly of the San Francisco - Oakland Newspaper Guild.

Perlik said the rash of government subpoenas for newsmen's basic information could "subvert basic protections of a free press in a manner unprecedented in

An earlier announcement told readers:

"We have considered many factors and have determined our subscribers would not want an increase in the subscription price to meet the ever-increasing wage raises and fringe benefits contained in eight separate organized craftsmen labor contracts."

The same announcement also went into equipment costs.

In what appeared to be a bit of misunderstanding of the Newspaper Guild's role as a union, the announcement went on:

"We have had no relief in negotiating Guild or union contracts which would result in lower costs of production."

The last edition of the five-day News-Chronicle on Friday, February 13, proclaimed the new Wednesday edition as "a new venture which we hope will serve our readers with a more modern approach."

It added the standard newspaper approach that cutting back is really improvement:

"With this new publication—the Wednesday News-Chronicle—Gibson Publications will enlarge and improve the daily Times-Herald, seven days a week, with the same daily features and special columns and news you have enjoyed in the daily News-Chronicle."

our history."

"Whether these demands are made by the government, as by the Justice Department investigating the Black Panthers in San Francisco, or by private persons, as by the Panthers in Chicago," Perlik said, "they endanger the mutual trust between newsmen and news source that is essential to continued access to the news."

In the face of protests from newsmen and media executives, U.S. Attorney General John N. Mitchell said no more such subpoenas would be sought without prior attempts to reach agreement with involved media on their scope.

Typos 36 names Pat Femister 1st woman top officer

Pat Femister was elected second vice president of Oakland Typographical Union 36 last week to become the first woman to hold top office in the local union.

She received 330 votes to 232 for Byron Edgett in the contest to fill the unexpired term of Joe Drummond, who resigned because of illness.

A 12-year member of Local 36, she is a teletypesetter operator at the Oakland Tribune. She has served as assistant Tribune chapel chairman and a member of the chapel laws committee.

Miss Femister, who campaigned on a platform of improving apprenticeship training, is a member of the local union newspaper joint apprenticeship committee, discipline committee and laws committee.

As second vice president she will be chairman of the Local 36 apprentice and membership committee and of its executive committee. She will be installed second vice president at the membership meeting at 10 a.m., Mar. 22 at the Hotel Leamington.

Hearing set Tuesday on 3 anti-worker bills

Three Republican bills that would adversely affect workers rights in California will be heard at 3:30 p.m. next Tuesday, March 17, by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee in Room 5007 of the State Capitol.

The bills are:

Senate Bill 193 which would let an employer fire an employee who took time off to participate in a political demonstration.

SB 248 which would compromise collective bargaining rights of public employees.

SB 289 which would restrict a workers' freedom of choice under the Unemployment Insurance Code in accepting alternate employment.

The last two bills were introduced by Republican Senator Clark Bradley of Santa Clara and Alameda counties. Republican Senator William E. Coombs of San Bernardino authored SB 193.

In the Assembly 10 California Labor Federation bills to update unemployment and disability insurance were in the legislative hopper.

Unemployment Insurance would be improved by:

Assembly Bill 842 permitting an individual to earn \$25 a week,

instead of the present \$12, without losing any unemployment benefits.

AB 843 increasing weekly maximum unemployment insurance to \$150.

AB 814 setting the wage ceiling subject to unemployment insurance contributions at \$15,000 a year.

AB 845 limiting to five weeks disqualification from unemployment insurance of a worker leaving his job during a trade dispute.

AB 846 including tips in computation of unemployment benefits.

AB 847 increasing from 26 to 39 weeks the maximum period in which an unemployed worker could collect benefits in a year.

AB 848 extending unemployment insurance to agricultural, domestic non profit and public employees.

Disability insurance would be updated by:

AB 763 increasing maximum benefits to \$150 a week.

AB 764 allowing disability benefits for pregnancy.

AB 765 increasing the maximum tax base to an unspecified amount.

Two worker protection bills

meanwhile had been introduced by Los Angeles Democratic Assemblywoman Yvonne Brathwaite. They are:

AB 713 to establish a fund to pay workmen's compensation to workers injured while working for an uninsured employer.

AB 566 to end the state's refusal of jobless pay to workers who quit jobs they could have refused as unsuitable.

Layoff sparks Janitors' strike at movie house

Theatrical Janitors 121 struck the Art Cinema Theater in Oakland this week after months of trying to negotiate with Los Angeles-based Pussy Cat Theaters, new owners of the movie house.

The strike, sanctioned by the Alameda County Central Labor Council, began Monday after the Pussy Cat chain fired its only janitor in the Oakland theater.

Frank Figone, union secretary-treasurer and business representative, said he had been trying ever since the Pussy Cat acquired the Art Cinema Theater six months ago to set up a meeting with the Los Angeles chain. He said the chain would neither meet nor sign the master agreement.

3 officers gripped Creque in board ruckus, trial told

Continued from page 1
Moore of the Oakland Economic Development Council Inc., are charged with assault, disturbing the peace resisting arrest and false imprisonment. The same charges, less assault, were made against Elijah Turner, Paul Cobb and Alfonso Galloway.

Derl Pope, a school security guard, testified that Creque struck him with his briefcase. When Weinberg asked why he had not so claimed in his written report last year, Pope said there must be some mistake.

Weinberg asked if he hadn't made the charge until the district attorney told him to.

"I remembered I was hit in the head because the other officers told me I was hit in the head," said Pope.

Jobless rate at 4.2 pct.; 5-year high

Ever-increasing joblessness plus the worst rise in inflation in 20 years continued to mark the Nixon administration's economic policy last month.

Another 388,000 persons joined the nationwide unemployment rolls in February, the Labor Department disclosed. Total joblessness was 3,800,000 persons, double that of a year earlier.

That pushed the nationwide rate to 4.2 per cent, just a shade under the 4.3 per cent the President's Council of Economic Advisors had expected to be this year's average.

Basic industry appeared to have taken the brunt of the Nixon slowdown. Assistant Commissioner Harold Goldstein of the Bureau of Labor Statistics said that "manufacturing and durable goods employment have really been hit badly."

The rate was the highest in close to five years. The increase from 3.9 in January was the biggest jump in 10 years and a seven-tenths of 1 per cent combined January-February increase was the largest in 13 years.

Representative Carl Albert, of Oklahoma, the House Democratic leader, charged that a recession was already underway.

He demanded that President Nixon immediately reverse his "improvident economic policies." Nixon is banking on economic slowdown, including reduced government appropriations, to halt still-zooming inflation.

(As total joblessness grew, Nixon's secretary of defense, Melvin Laird, announced defense cutbacks would cost 5,879 government jobs in the Bay Area).

Weekly average earnings were up \$7.07 a week over a year earlier. In the same period, prices rose 6 per cent, and that reduced purchasing power \$9.37 a week. The result was that higher paychecks bought \$2.30 worth of goods less.

The February jobless increase was larger for white workers than for non-whites, although the non-white rate was close to double that of whites.

Goldstein saw a silver lining. He called the difference "a hopeful sign of greater sharing of the burden of unemployment."

from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

Continued from page 1
cent a month, 18 per cent a year for credit. On this customer's bill, besides the credit, was a 1½ per cent charge on a previous balance.

That balance included the \$32.84 which Ward's had charged by mistake. So the customer was charged interest on what Ward's admitted wasn't owed.

The computer's work undoubtedly.

★ ★ ★

THERE'S a prime injustice in stores charging interest on your account. This goes beyond the fact that too many charge it on a previous balance, without regard for what you've paid since. What I'm talking about is a matter of equality.

When you're overcharged or accidentally pay a bill twice the store gives you a credit.

This means the store is holding your money until you spend it—at that store.

Do you get interest on that money which the store now owes you? What a silly question. Certainly not!

But when you owe the store you pay interest. Promptly on the bill every month is that 1½ per cent on money you owe the store. As a matter of fact, because of the "previous balance" practice

of charging interest, you pay on some money you don't owe the store.

It is probably too much to expect that you will ever get equal treatment on this one.

★ ★ ★

BUT IT MIGHT be interesting next time you get a credit for overpayment or error, to write the store and request interest.

The result, however, would probably be a letter from a computer.

And against a computer, you simply can't win.

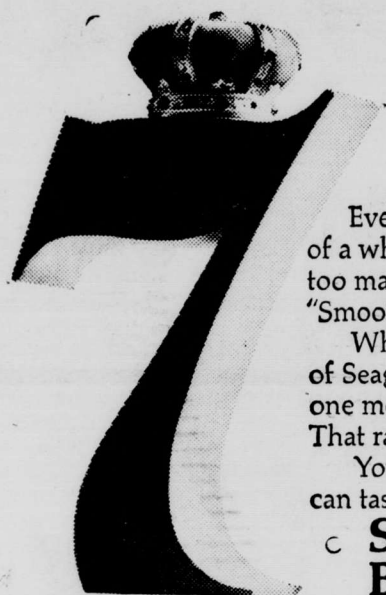
Salesmen strike Grand Chrysler

Continued from page 1

met the firm's attorney seeking agreement.

The company, however, refused to recognize Local 1095 as representing a majority of its 11 salesmen, Fulco reported. Local 1095 has filed unfair labor practice charges.

Six of the 11 salesmen signed authorization cards for representation by Local 1095 on March 3 and five of them were fired March 4, Fulco said.



Ever try to describe the taste of a whiskey to a friend? There aren't too many words you can use.

"Smooth"... "mellow"... that's about it.

When you're describing the taste of Seagram's 7 Crown we think there's one more word you'll want to add. That rare intangible... "quality".

You can't touch it. But you sure can taste it!

Say Seagram's and Be Sure.

tastes
like
a
million.

\$5.39

4/5 Qt.



Seagram Distillers Company, N.Y.C. Blended Whiskey. 86 Proof. 65% Grain Neutral Spirits.